

REMARKS

Claims 2-13, 15-33, 35-46, 48-54, 56-70, and 72-84 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, 34, and 47 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 5, 12, 14-17, 19, 25, 27-30, 32, 38, 40-43, 45 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smeulders (U.S. Pat. No. 6,741,559). Claims 1, 14, 27 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smeulders (U.S. Pat. No. 6,741,559) in view of Hazu (U.S. Pat. No. 5,455,841). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant cancelled claims 1 and 14. As such, the rejection of these claims is rendered moot.

Applicant amended claims 27 and 40 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 34 and 40, respectively. The Examiner indicated that claims 34 and 40 include allowable subject matter. As such, claims 27 and 40, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance. The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from an independent claim that includes subject matter that the Examiner indicated to be allowable. As such, the remaining claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

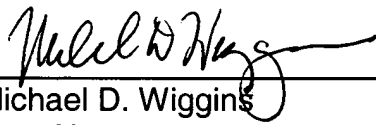
The Examiner states that claims 8-11, 21-24, 53, 54, 56-70 and 72-84 are allowed. The Examiner states that claims 34-37 and 47-50 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant amended claims 36-37 and 49-50 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant amended claims 27 and 40 to include the allowable subject matter from claims 34 and 47, respectively. Therefore, claims 27, 36, 37, 40, 49, and 50, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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